Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A security system to increase the security of a manual key operated unit operable by a manual key, comprising:

an electronic key reader to read an identification code of an electronic key and to produce a signal according to the read identification code; and

a microprocessor to process the signal, to count the number of times the electronic key is read, to receive a further signal to indicate whether the manual key is used within a set amount of time after the electronic key reader reads the identification code, and to operate at least one necessary operating component of the manual key operated unit based on whether the identification code read by the electronic key reader corresponds to a predetermined identification code, whether the counted number of times the electronic key is read is greater than a predetermined number, and whether the manual key is used within the set amount of time.

2. (Previously Presented) The security system of claim 1, wherein if the signal contains the predetermined identification code, the microprocessor operates the at least one necessary operating component for a predetermined amount of, or for as long as the manual key is used to operate the manual key operated unit.

3. (Original) The security system of claim 1, further comprising a light indicating unit to indicate whether the read identification code is the predetermined identification code.

4. (Previously Presented) The security system of claim 3, wherein the light indicating unit comprises:

a first light emitting diode to indicate when the detected identification code is correct; and

a second light emitting diode to indicate when the detected identification code is not correct.

5. (Original) The security system of claim 1, wherein the manual operated key unit is a motor vehicle.

6. (Original) The security system of claim 1, wherein the manual operated key unit is a storage unit.

7. (Original) The security system of claim 1, wherein the manual operated key unit is a gun cabinet.

8. (Currently Amended) A security system to secure an external unit having plural separate units secured by a respective locking device having a corresponding manufacturer provided key, comprising:

a key detecting unit to detect one or more electronic keys;

a control unit to determine the number of times the one or more keys are detected, to receive a signal to indicate whether the corresponding manufacturer provided key is used within a set amount of time after the electronic key detecting unit detects the one or more electronic keys, and to control enabling or disabling of the respective locking devices of the separate units depending on the one or more electronic keys detected, whether the number of times the one or more electronic keys are detected is greater than a predetermined number, and on whether the corresponding manufacturer provided key is used within the set amount of time.

9. (Original) The security system of claim 8, wherein the security system further comprises locking components, each locking component to connect with a respective locking device of the external unit to enable or disable the locking device, the locking components being controlled by the control unit.

10. (Original) The security system of claim 8, wherein the key detecting unit detects a programmed identification code within the electronic key.

11. (Original) The security system of claim 9, wherein the control unit is a microprocessor that controls the locking components to enable or disable the respective locking devices depending on a signal received from the key detecting unit indicating whether a specific electronic key has been detected.

12. (Original) The security system of claim 11, wherein the microprocessor is programmable to change a code corresponding to the electronic key.

13. (Previously Presented) The security system of claim 11, wherein, if the one or more electronic keys contains the predetermined code, the locking components enable the respective locking device for a predetermined amount of time, or for as long as the manufacturer provided key continues to be used to operate that locking device.

14. (Original) The security system of claim 11, wherein the external unit is a management unit to manage business activities, and the separate units are different business management areas.

15. (Original) The security system of claim 11, wherein the external unit is a building, and the separate units are areas within the building.

16. (Original) The security system of claim 11, wherein the external unit is a motor vehicle engine, and the separate units are components required to activate the motor vehicle engine.

17. (Original) The security system of claim 11, wherein the external unit is a gun cabinet, and the separate units are different compartment areas of the gun cabinet.

18 - 32. (Cancelled)

33. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling access to an external unit having at least one separate area secured by a locking device, the method comprising:

~~setting~~ counting the number of times an electronic key has been used to operate the locking device of the at least one separate area ~~to zero after it has been determined that the electronic key has not been used to operate the at least one locking device for a predetermined amount of time~~;

determining whether the counted number of times the electronic key has been used is greater than a predetermined number of times within a predetermined amount of time ~~to operate the at least one locking device~~, and if so, disabling the at least one locking device, otherwise determining whether the electronic key is a correct key to operate the at least one locking device; and

if the electronic key is the correct key, enabling the at least one locking device to be operated by ~~the~~a manufacturer key for a set amount of time, otherwise ~~adding one to a~~ incrementing the counted number ~~count for~~ each time an incorrect electronic key is attempted to operate the at least one locking device~~, and then repeating the method from the operation of determining~~.

34. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling the use of a motor vehicle, comprising:

disabling a motor vehicle engine component and at least one storage compartment of the motor vehicle;

determining whether an electronic key having a programmed identification code is a correct key to operate the motor vehicle engine component and the at least one storage compartment of the motor vehicle including counting the number of times the electronic key is used;

if the electronic key is a correct key, and if the counted number of times is less than a predetermined number of times, enabling the motor vehicle engine component and the at least one storage compartment to be operated by a manufacturer provided key for a predetermined

amount of time, otherwise continuing to disable the motor vehicle engine component and the at least one storage compartment of the motor vehicle from being operated with a manufacturer provided key; and

if the manufacturer provided key is used within the predetermined amount of time, operating the motor vehicle engine component and/or the at least one storage compartment for as long as the manufacturer provided key continues to be used.

35. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling access to a management system having plural storage areas within a building area, comprising:

determining whether a first type of electronic key having authority to access each of the plurality of storage areas in the building area has been detected including counting the number of times the first type of electronic key is used, and if so, then enabling each of the plurality of storage areas in the building area to be accessed for a predetermined amount of time;

determining whether a second type of key having authority to access specific ones of the plurality of storage areas in the building area has been detected, and if so, then enabling each of the specific storage areas in the building area to be accessed for a predetermined amount of time; and

determining whether a third type of key having authority to access select ones of the specific storage areas in the building area has been detected, and if so, then enabling each of the select ones of the specific storage areas in the building area to be accessed for a predetermined amount of time.

36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 35, wherein the predetermined amount of time is the amount of time required to conduct daily business activities required by the respective storage area.

37. (Original) The method of claim 36, wherein the management system is a bar within a restaurant, and storage areas include the area in which the bar is located, a cash register, a cabinet to lock alcohol therein, and/or a cabinet to store valuable items therein.

38. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling a lockable area, comprising:

determining whether a first electronic key having a predetermined identification code therein has been detected to operate the lockable area, and if not, then continuing to determine whether the first electronic key has been detected, and if so, then determining whether a second electronic key having another predetermined identification code therein has been detected to operate the lockable area, and if not, then continuing to determine whether the second electronic key has been detected;

counting the number of times at least one of the first electronic key and second electronic key is used in determining whether an electronic key has been detected; and

enabling the lockable area to be accessed if the first electronic key and the second electronic key have been detected within a predetermined amount of time and the counted number of times of the at least one of the first electronic key and the second electronic key is less than a predetermined number.

39 - 57. (Cancelled)

58. (Currently Amended) A security system to secure an external unit secured by first and second locking devices one of which is operable by ~~a local~~an electronic key, comprising:

a first key detecting unit to detect an electronic key and to count a number of times the electronic key is detected; and

a control unit connected to the first key detecting unit to control the first and second locking devices to be operable depending on the detecting of the electronic key including the counted number of times the electronic key is detected, and to control the first locking device ~~not~~ to not be operable by the ~~local~~electronic key.

59 - 74. (Cancelled)

75. (New) A security system to increase the security of a gun storage device operable by a manual key, comprising:

an electronic key reader to read an expected identification code of an electronic key and to produce a signal according to the read expected identification code; and

a microprocessor to process the expected identification code signal and to further receive a signal to indicate whether the manual key is used within a set amount of time after the electronic key reader reads the expected identification code, and to operate at least one necessary operating component of the gun cabinet based on the expected identification code signal and whether the manual key is used within the set amount of time.

76. (New) A security system to secure a gun storage unit having a plurality of compartments each compartment being secured by a respective locking device having a corresponding manufacturer provided key, comprising:

a key detecting unit to detect at least one valid electronic key having an identification code and authorized to access at least one compartment of the plurality of compartments and to output a valid key signal for each at least one valid electronic key when a predetermined identification code is detected;

a microprocessor to receive a signal to indicate whether the corresponding manufacturer provided key is used within a set amount of time after the electronic key detecting unit detects the at least one valid electronic key and to control enabling or disabling of the respective locking devices of the separate compartments depending on whether the valid key signal is received for the at least one valid electronic key detected and on whether the corresponding manufacturer provided key is used within the set amount of time; and

locking components, each locking component to connect with a respective locking device of the gun storage unit to enable or disable the locking device, the locking components being controlled by the microprocessor.

77. (New) A security system to secure a gun storage unit secured by a locking device which is operated by an electronic key, comprising:

a key detecting unit to detect an electronic key; and

a control unit connected to the key detecting unit to control the locking device of the gun storage unit to be operated by detecting the electronic key in the key detecting unit, such that

the number of times the electronic key is detected is counted,

wherein the control unit disables the locking device of the gun storage unit to not be operated by the electronic key when the counted number of times the electronic key is detected is greater than a predetermined number.